



September 1, 2004

OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK300-4-20**SUBJECT: LTP – Grassland Reserve Program Approved Applications and Conservation Plan Development**

Purpose: To provide field offices information regarding approvals and contracting activity for completing Grassland Reserve Program contracting for fiscal year 2004.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004

NRCS Action Required By September 24, 2004
Farm Service Agency Action By September 29, 2004

Oklahoma received an allocation of \$2.3 million in financial assistance for enrollment of easements and rental agreements in the GRP in 2004. In addition, Oklahoma is allowed to retain approximately \$1.58 million from 2003 that was unused due to landowners declining their easement offers. The total GRP financial assistance available for obligation this fiscal year is \$3.88 million. NRCS and FSA state leadership have agreed to approve funding for rental agreements from pools 2 and 4 for enrollment in the GRP this fiscal year. Applications for easements (pools 1 and 3) will not be approved for obligation with 2004 funding due to the inability to complete the process necessary to obligate the funds this year. This decision was necessary due to the late delivery of funding to the state, notification of program availability, as well as the sizable application workload associated with the program. Easement offers and acquisition will be a priority for GRP enrollment in 2005. Once FY 2005 GRP funding is appropriated, the 2005 easement process will be initiated beginning with the higher ranking applications from this year's ranking pool.

Two tables are included with this bulletin providing summaries of the applications and approvals for this fiscal year. The final application ranking lists with the status of each application may be accessed by NRCS employees at the following intranet link:

<http://intranet.ok.nrcs.usda.gov/PGM/index.htm>

Personnel are reminded that application ranking lists are not releasable under the confidentiality provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. Requests from individuals for information from the ranking list must be formally requested in writing to Les Conner, FOIA Officer.

Conservation Plan Development and Approval

NRCS District Conservationists will develop and approve conservation plans for each of the approved applications on the offered acres. The Conservation District's review and approval of the conservation plan is encouraged. The conservation plan will be developed using Customer Service Toolkit (CST). The conservation plan map will be produced with ArcGIS and will identify the major physical and ecological features of the property. This detailed map and conservation plan will form the baseline for future monitoring and compliance activity associated with the

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contract. The four applications approved having restoration work to be completed will require developing an AD-1155 through CST. The AD-1155 will be approved and provided to FSA for inclusion with the Grassland Reserve Program Contract (CCC-920). All restoration work should be scheduled to be completed within the first three years of the contract. NRCS will provide the conservation plan, maps, and AD-1155 (AD-1155 for restoration only) to the FSA county office by COB on September 24, 2004. NRCS will establish a six-part contractual case file for each approved GRP contract.

FSA county offices will immediately prepare the CCC-920 and Appendix and provide to NRCS for signing by the participant(s) concurrent with the review of the conservation plan. FSA will sign the CCC-920, block 12, as the obligating CCC official. A final copy of the approved CCC-920 will be provided to the NRCS field office servicing the GRP contract.

Grassland Reserve Program Applications

Field offices are reminded that the GRP is under continuous sign-up authority. Continue to advertise availability and accept applications for the program. Copies of **ALL** applications received for the GRP will be provided to the FSA county office within 5 days of receipt. This is necessary for FSA to ensure the client records and appropriate compliance certifications are established for the individuals prior to the application being approved.

Notification Letters to Applicants

Offices may provide written notification to deferred applicants regarding the status of their application. A sample deferral letter is available which can be tailored locally, prior to mailing to the applicants. This letter is posted to the intranet site for future reference and access.

<http://intranet.ok.nrcs.usda.gov/PGM/formsDL/grp/GRPDeferredLett81903.doc>

Contact your respective Program Liaison, or the State Office Program Section for additional information or questions.

/s/

M. DARREL DOMINICK
State Conservationist

Attachment

Grassland Reserve Program Fiscal Year 2004 Activity Summary

Summary of GRP applications by pool and offer type.

Application Pools	Type	Number	Acres	Est. Cost
Pool 1	30-year Easement	10	2,093	\$405,403
	Permanent Easement	27	12,645	\$5,720,423
Pool 2	10-year Rental Agreements	86	27,525	\$2,800,116
	15-year Rental Agreements	17	8,497	\$1,116,705
	20-year Rental Agreements	22	15,565	\$3,234,685
	30-year Rental Agreements	49	33,021	\$9,811,670
Pool 3	30-year Easement	16	13,524	\$1,729,544
	Permanent Easement	49	20,656	\$10,943,644
Pool 4	10-year Rental Agreements	129	151,060	\$11,221,815
	15-year Rental Agreements	10	14,773	\$1,815,180
	20-year Rental Agreements	19	26,895	\$4,242,352
	30-year Rental Agreements	49	53,912	\$12,967,448
Totals		483	380,166	\$66,008,985

Summary of GRP approvals by pool, county and offer type.

County	Type	Number	Acres	Funding
Pool 2				
Craig County	Rental agreement (10yr.)	1	316	\$36,340
	Rental agreement (30yr.)	9	2,957	\$1,019,993
Pool 4				
Beaver County	Rental agreement (30yr.)	4	4,330	\$909,237
Kay County	Rental agreement (20yr.)	1	611	\$116,090
	Rental agreement (30yr.)	2	1,190	\$339,150
Noble County	Rental agreement (30yr.)	1	40	\$11,100
Pottawatomie County	Rental agreement (30yr.)	1	240	\$69,886
Roger Mills County	Rental agreement (10yr.)	1	440	\$33,000
Woods County	Rental agreement (10yr.)	4	3,955	\$326,288
	Rental agreement (20yr.)	2	1,920	\$316,800
	Rental agreement (30yr.)	7	1,985	\$491,288
Woodward County	Rental agreement (10yr.)	2	1,440	\$112,920
	Rental agreement (30yr.)	2	422	\$98,115
Totals		37	19,846	\$3,880,207.00